

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-13 /116 R

66650

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RJROSENBERG:JCM

8/20/73 EXT. 29403

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NEA/IRN:MAMICHAUD

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WH- MR. STEARMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN PRESS BRIEFING ON ICCS MEMBERSHIP

REFS: TEHRAN'S 5885 AND 5903

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1. MANY OF THE BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT ICCS FUNCTIONS CAN

BE ANSWERED BY REFERRING DIRECTLY TO THE TEXTS OF THE JANUARY 27 AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM, THE ICCS PROTOCOL AND THE MARCH 2 ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ARE THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND THE TEXTS OF DR. KISSINGER'S PRESS BRIEFINGS OF JANUARY 24 AND JUNE 13. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS MAY BE HELPFUL AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR GOI:

A. ICCS' MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE TO OBSERVE, INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE AND CERTAIN OTHER ELEMENTS OF PEACE AGREEMENT, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 18 OF THE AGREEMENT. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A "PEACE-KEEPING" FORCE IN THE SENSE OF ACTIVELY PREVENTING OR STOPPING VIOLATIONS (E.G., INTERVENING IN FIREFIGHTS).

B. THE ICCS REPORTS TO EITHER THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES OR THE FOUR PARTIES SIGNATORY TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT, WHO IN TURN FORWARD THE REPORTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. TO GUARD AGAINST STALEMATES, IN THE EVENT OF DISAGREEMENTS THE ICCS IS REQUIRED TO REPORT MINORITY AND SEPARATE VIEWS OF ITS MEMBERS.

C. WHILE ICCS HAS EXPERIENCED NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES IN FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF OPERATIONS, WE FULLY EXPECTED SUCH DIFFICULTIES IN INITIAL PHASES AND MANY OF THEM HAVE NOW BEEN WORKED OUT. DESPITE ITS EARLY PROBLEMS, THE ICCS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO A LOWERING OF HOSTILITIES AND HAS SUPERVISED EXTENSIVE POW EXCHANGES. WE EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND HAVE ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO FACILITATE ICCS OPERATIONS BY IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN WHICH IT MUST FUNCTION (E.G.: MOST RECENT NEGOTIATIONS RESULTING IN JUNE 13 AGREEMENT), AND BY PRESSING VIGOROUSLY FOR THE MOST OBJECTIVE POSSIBLE APPROACH BY THE OTHER ICCS MEMBERS. WE BELIEVE ICCS, HOWEVER IMPERFECT, IS PLAYING VALUABLE ROLE IN VIETNAM; ITS MERE PRESENCE IS SIGNIFICANT DETERRENT TO VIOLATIONS

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OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT.

D. WE DO NOT ENVISAGE ICCS REMAINING IN VIETNAM ENDLESSLY. TO THE CONTRARY, WE WOULD EXPECT ICCS TO CEASE FUNCTIONING UPON COMPLETION OF SVN ELECTIONS REQUIRED BY THE AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, AGREEMENT SPECIFIES THAT ANY MEMBER OF ICCS MAY UNILATERALLY TERMINATE ITS PARTICIPATION BY GIVING

THREE MONTHS NOTICE.

E. CANADIANS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM ICCS AT THE END OF JULY. IN DOING SO, THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR DECISION WAS RELATED TO FACT THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CEASE-FIRE SUPERVISION IN INDOCHINA FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS AND THAT THEY STILL REGARD THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS PROVIDING SOUND AND HONORABLE BASIS FOR PEACE. THEY ASSURED US THEY WILL COOPERATE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE IN ASSISTING SUCCESSOR MEMBER TO TAKE OVER ICCS FUNCTIONS.

F. BY TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, EACH ICCS MEMBER IS TO PROVIDE 290 SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL. MAJORITY OF THESE ARE MILITARY, WITH HEAVY PREPONDERANCE OF OFFICERS. HOWEVER, PARTICIPATION BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (E.G., FOREIGN MINISTRY, POLICE OFFICIALS) IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE AND SPECIFIC MIX OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REPS IS MATTER FOR INDIVIDUAL ICCS MEMBERS TO DECIDE

. (IF GOI SHOULD FOLLOW CANADIAN PATTERN, IT WOULD FURNISH APPROXIMATELY 200 MILITARY OFFICERS, 70 ENLISTED MEN/NON-COMS, AND 20 FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.)

G. EACH DELEGATION IS GENERALLY REPRESENTED AT PLENARY SESSIONS BY AMBASSADOR AS CHIEF, MILITARY COMMANDER (CANADIAN, POLISH AND HUNGARIAN MAJOR GENERALS, INDONESIAN BRIGADIER GENERAL), AND SENIOR POLITICAL COUNSELLOR OR ADVISOR (CANADIAN WAS MINISTER, POLISH IS MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, HUNGARIAN IS DESIGNED SENIOR COUNSELLOR AND DEPUTY, INDONESIAN IS FORMER
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AMBASSADOR AND BEARS TITLE OF DEPUTY). DELEGATION MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FOR ICCS SAIGON LISTS TWO MILITARY MEMBERS OF CANADIAN DELEGATION, ONE MILITARY MEMBER HUNGARIAN DELEGATION, 10 MILITARY MEMBERS OF TOTAL 19 INDONESIAN DELEGATION, AND 6 MILITARY MEMBERS OF TOTAL 20 POLISH DELEGATION. AS FAR AS CAN BE ASCERTAINED, ONLY CANADIANS HAVE PUT CIVILIANS (FIRST SECRETARIES) IN CHARGE OF REGIONAL TEAMS. OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE MILITARY CHIEFS IN REGIONS. FIELD TEAMS AS DISTINGUISHED FROM REGIONAL TEAMS ARE COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF MILITARY, THOUGH A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN INTERPRETERS ARE OCCASIONALLY UTILIZED IN FIELD.

H. EACH ICCS MEMBER PAYS SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

OF ITS PERSONNEL PLUS 2 PER CENTF ALL OPERATING
EXPENDITURES
OF THE COMMISSION (WHICH INCLUDE SUCH
COSTS AS AIR TRANSPORTATION TO VIETNAM FROM COUNTRY-
OF-ORIGIN, HOUSING, INTRA VIETNAM AIR AND GROUND
TRANSPORTATION, ETC.) BASED ON THE INITIAL ICCS
BUDGET WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED, WE ESTIMATE
THAT (IN ADDITION TO SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES) EACH
ICCS MEMBER WILL PAY NO MORE THAN DOLS 800,000 PER
ANNUM TOWARD SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

2. IN GENERAL, WE WOULD COUNSEL GOI IN THIS ITS
FIRST PRESS BRIEFING ON ICCS MATTERS TO SEEK TO AVOID
SUCH CONTROVERSIES AS POLISH/HUNGARIAN AND DRV/PRG
OBSTRUCTIONISM AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC PROBLEMS CURRENTLY
FACED BY ICCS. WOULD SUGGEST THAT BEST LINE FOR GOI TO
TAKE WOULD BE ITS INTENT TO UNDERTAKE THIS IMPORTANT
MISSION WITH ALL SERIOUSNESS AND IMPARTIALITY. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE165533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJROSENBERG:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BARGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730825/aaaaarwa.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN'S 5885 AND 5903
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN PRESS BRIEFING ON ICCS MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: MARR, VS, IR
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005